(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) India believes that the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council is important and that by any objective criteria, India's case for permanent membership of the UN Security Council is credible and strong. The Government has been pursuing India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council in the UN General Assembly, meetings of the relevant Committees and takes up India's case in all its high-level bilateral interactions. India, Brazil, Germany and Japan-now being termed as the Group of Four (G4) countries - have introduced a Resolution on UN Security Council Reform on July 11,2005 in the UN General Assembly. The G-4 Resolution has been co-sponsored by 31 countries and has the support of a large number of other countries. In this framework, there is also steady accretion in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council, Several countries-permanent members as well as others-have expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges.

Authentication of Indo-Pak border on Siachen Glacier

401. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had made a demand to Pakistan to authenticate the border on the Siachen Glacier to ensure that there are no complications after demilitarisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received by the Government from Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) India's position on the Siachen issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered. Pakistan claims that India has violated the Simla Agreement and must withdraw from the territory occupied illegally.

The Defence Secretaries level talks between Pakistan and India to discuss Siachen issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Islamabad on 26-27 May 2005. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation. The two Defence Secretaries agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the Siachen Issue in a peaceful manner.

Indo-Pak discussion

402. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held in May and June last between the Governments of India and Pakistan to ease tension between the two countries on Siachen in Jammu and Kashmir and Sir Creek on the Gujarat-Pak Border; and

(b) if so, the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Defence Secretaries level talks between Pakistan and India to discuss Siachen Issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Islamabad on 26-27 May 2005. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ceasefire currently in place since November 2003 and agreed to its continuation. The two Defence Secretaries agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the Siachen Issue in a peaceful manner.

Talks on the Sir Creek issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Rawalpindi on 28-29 May 2005 to discuss the demarcation of International boundary between the two countries in the Sir Creek area. No outcome was reached. The two sides, however, agreed to continue their discussions aimed at an early resolution of the issue for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Depiction of Hindu Gods on shoes

403. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of the countries, especially France and other European countries are printing